

App. No. 09/890,758
Office Action Dated August 10, 2005

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 5, 15, and 16 are hereby amended. Claims 18 and 19 are new.

Claims 1 and 5 are amended editorially. Claims 15 and 16 are amended to track with claims 1 and 5. New claims 18 and 19 are supported, for example, by Figure 7.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 15, and 16 were rejected as being anticipated by Onishi (US 5,859,421). Applicants traverse this rejection. The Examiner seems to contend that the case (21) with a groove (29) disclosed by Onishi is equivalent to the claimed transparent main body and groove, and that the glass cover (22) disclosed by Onishi is equivalent to the claimed transparent glass member. While the case (21) can be made of a resin, nothing in Onishi suggests that the case (21) is transparent, as required of the transparent main body of claims 1, 5, 15, and 16.

The transparent cover of claims 1, 5, 15, and 16 provides a light and impact-resistant cover. The transparent cover including the transparent glass member is relatively light in weight. Further, since the transparent glass member is embedded in the groove, it is protected by the transparent main body. Therefore, both the transparent main body and the transparent glass member are well protected from damage such as cracking. Since the transparent main body is made of a synthetic resin, it is easy to provide it with engaging projections by injection molding. See page 18, line 22 to page 19, line 8.

Favorable reconsideration of claims 1, 3, 5, 15, and 16 is requested.

New claims 18 and 19 require a case enclosing a light source and a plurality of light receiving elements. Even if the case (21) disclosed by Onishi is considered equivalent to the claimed case, the glass cover (22) disclosed by Onishi cannot be considered equivalent to the claimed **two piece** transparent cover required by claims 1, 5, 15, and 16. The glass cover (22)

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disclosed by Onishi is only a **single unit**. Favorable examination of claims 18 and 19 is requested.

Claims 6-9 were rejected as being unpatentable over Onishi in view of Imagawa (US 5,455,412). Applicants traverse this rejection. Claims 6-9 should be considered allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 5, from which they depend. Imagawa does not remedy the deficiencies of Onishi, as previously noted. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection as applied to the rejected claims. Favorable reconsideration of claims 6-9 is requested.

Claims 10-14 were rejected as being unpatentable over Onishi in view of Tamura (US 5,943,141). Applicants traverse this rejection. Claims 10-14 should be considered allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 5, from which they depend. Tamura does not remedy the deficiencies of Onishi, as previously noted. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection as applied to the rejected claims. Favorable reconsideration of claims 10-14 is requested.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)455-3804.

Dated: January 5, 2006



DPM:mfe

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas P. Mueller". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

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